

RESOURCES & DIARY DATES

HOPE 2018 – words and action to make Jesus known in villages, towns and cities across the UK in 2018. www.hopetogether.org.uk 01788 542782

HOPE Revolution – this is about encouraging young people to live radically, be different and step out of their comfort zones... to enable them to choose to use their energy, passion and uniqueness to share their eternal hope with their friends, school and community. www.hopetogether.org.uk/hoperev

JustOne at the Emirates Stadium – is a one-day event, bringing people together from across Greater London from all walks of life to celebrate the Christian faith and to give them an opportunity to hear the good news about Jesus Christ. www.justone.co.uk

Pray for Five – The Talking Jesus report (www.talkingjesus.org) shows that one in five of the people we talk to about Jesus wants to know more. www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/284190/Pray_for_five.aspx

Prison Hope 2017-2018 – a two-year partnership of denominations, prison chaplains and organisations involved with prisoners, former prisoners, prison staff and their families encouraging prayer, volunteering and giving. www.prisonhope.org.uk

Saltbox Christian Centre – working in Stoke-on-Trent and beyond with community-based services for vulnerable and marginalised members of society. www.saltbox.org.uk

Soul Survivor – events, across the UK and internationally, that encourage, equip and empower young people in their relationship with Jesus. www.soulsurvivor.com

The Message Trust – a worldwide movement with a passion to share Jesus Christ with the hardest to reach young people. www.message.org.uk

World Prayer Centre – resourcing, mobilising and encouraging prayer for our nations and for the nations www.worldprayer.org.uk

FRIDAY FOCUS PARTNERS

24-7 Prayer, CWR, Evangelical Alliance, Every Home for Christ, Ffald-y-Brenin, HOPE, JustOne, Neighbourhood Prayer Network, Prayer Spaces in Schools, RCCG, Salvation Army Prayer Network, Thy Kingdom Come, Trypraying, World Prayer Centre



July - August 2017

FRIDAY FOCUS

Prayer themes for the
2017 Year of Prayer

**“Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful.
And pray for us, too, that
God may open a door for
our message, so that we
may proclaim the mystery
of Christ, for which I am in
chains.”**

*Paul's letter to the Colossians
chapter 4 verses 2-3*

Friday Focus is published bi-monthly through 2017 as a resource for churches preparing for HOPE 2018 and a year of mission together, in words and action, to make Jesus known.

Free versions of this bi-monthly Prayer Focus are available to download: colour, black & white, large print from www.hopetogether.org.uk/pray

A subscription to Prayer magazine (bi-monthly) contains Friday Focus as a pull-out prayer resource. Order by phone: **0330 332 6257** or online: www.prayermagazine.com

JULY

July 7 Fruitful evangelism

John 1:40-42

What a privilege it is to be able to pray for people in our lives, especially for those who need to begin a relationship with Jesus. We have a great example in Andrew, the disciple, who brought his brother Peter to Jesus, the Messiah. Through them, many others met with Jesus and had their lives transformed.

Loving Father, we pray that you will move in power to open spiritual eyes and ears, and heal broken hearts at every event and festival this summer. We pray for all those who gather at JustOne at the Emirates stadium tomorrow, and ask for your anointing on all who share – may their messages lead many to commit their lives to Jesus.

Yioula Taliadorou, JustOne

July 14 Loving our communities

Luke 10:25-37

We are all very grateful for the loving relationships we experience, yet we also need to ask the question: 'Who is my neighbour?' When Jesus was asked, he responded with the story of a beaten man, helped by someone who could have been his enemy. Think about the different communities you belong to locally, through your interests, and even online.

Lord, thank you for the communities to which I belong; for their strength and their challenges. Thank you for those who have been a Good Samaritan to me in the struggles and difficulties of life. Help me to see all people through your loving gaze, so that I am prepared to show your mercy to those in need. Amen

Bishop Mark O'Toole, Bishop of Plymouth

July 21 Young people following Jesus

1 Timothy 4:12

The latest research commissioned by HOPE Revolution, shows that 13 per cent of 11 to 18 year olds are actively following Jesus, praying regularly and attending church at least once a month. We long for these young people to take the lead in sharing the hope they have with their friends and family.

Heavenly Father, thank you for every young person who is seeking to follow Jesus. Pour out your Holy Spirit on them, equipping them to put their faith into words and actions. Raise up leaders among them to lead your Church and reach the lost.

Phil Timson, HOPE's Youth Director

July 28 The gift of rest

Hebrews 4:9-11

Do we know when to stop and how to take time out to restore our souls? Let's remind ourselves that our God is a God of rest, a God who understands balance, who values down time. It is not good to be always busy, always active, always working. To give to others we must allow ourselves to rest in God.

Gracious God, we come to you mindful of our need for rest. Enable us to enter that rest. We ask not just for lazy days and sunshine, but for that deep refreshment that only you can give. Restore our souls, give us balance, that revived and whole again we can rise with you to the challenges of this world. Amen.

Jude Levermore, The Methodist Church

AUGUST

August 4 Youth festivals

Matthew 17:1-5

Festivals are often 'mountain top experiences' where we feel the presence of God and hear his voice like Jesus did at the Transfiguration. Each summer we gather thousands of young people, seeing many encounter God in life-changing ways. The vital thing they – and we – must hear is that they are beloved children of God with whom he is well pleased.

Lord we pray the young people in our church and community would know the love and acceptance of being children of God. We pray for those who make a commitment to follow Jesus at a festival or camp this summer that they may continue to grow in love for you and in understanding of your love for them.

Mike Pilavachi, Soul Survivor

August 11 Hope for older people

Philippians 2:3-4

Statistics show that a third of older people don't speak to another person in a week, and half cite TV as their main company. Loneliness and isolation are the cause of devastating physical and mental health problems. How can we as the Church intentionally address this need by tackling loneliness and isolation in older people?

Almighty God, we thank you for the older generation of our country, and think particularly of those who are lonely and isolated. We ask for your comfort and companionship to envelop them, through both the presence of your Holy Spirit and the mobilisation of your Church. Give us the wisdom and opportunities to display your love to them in practical ways.

Tim Lucas, Saltbox Christian Centre

August 18 Freedom behind bars

John 8:36

When Jesus sets us free, we each have a story to tell. Later this year a new book called 40 Stories of Hope brings together the stories of prisoners who have discovered the hope and freedom Jesus gives. Join with Prison Hope, praying that this collection of testimonies, Bible readings and prayers will inspire many people inside and outside prison.

Heavenly Father, thank you that Jesus has paid the price to set us free. We pray that 40 Stories of Hope will help many people to find the freedom that your Son gives. May we each have an opportunity to tell our own story of hope to someone we meet in the coming week.

Catherine Butcher, HOPE's Communications director and editor of 40 Stories of Hope

August 25 Pray for 5: our families

Acts 16:33-34

As an evangelist my greatest calling is to reach my family. 'Your whole family is going to be in heaven with you son' was the whisper of the Spirit into my heart months ago as my youngest daughter met Jesus. Years of prayer answered. Pray daily for your wider family - I still pray with that promise in my heart.

Heavenly Father, I pray today for my family, immediate and wider. Would you rest your spirit upon them, reveal yourself to them and visit them with your grace. I know you desire that all would know you, so I ask you now that you would touch the lives of all those in my family that don't know Jesus yet. Amen.

Carl Beech, The Message Trust